

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for noting allowable subject matter in dependent claims 2, 4 and 6. These claims have each been amended above to self-stand the independent and allowed status.

The rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Szczepanek et al., '668 in view of Merchant et al. '010 is respectfully traversed.

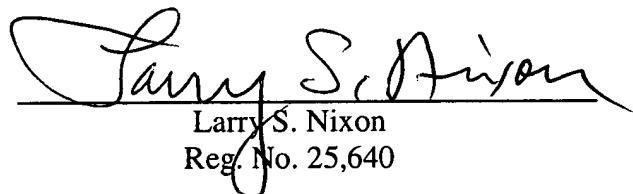
Since these claims have now been canceled above without prejudice, this ground of rejection has been mooted and it is thus not believed necessary at this time to provide detailed reasons for the traversal.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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